

ESB 6433 - H COMM AMD

By Committee on State Government Operations & Accountability

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that recent events,  
4 including the 9/11 terrorist acts, the tsunami in southeast Asia,  
5 Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in the gulf coast, outbreaks of avian flu,  
6 and the earthquake in Pakistan, have demonstrated the need for a  
7 coordinated, comprehensive all-hazards disaster plan involving  
8 citizens, industry, local governments, and the state. Washington  
9 state's topography, geography, location, and strategic and economic  
10 interests place the state at particular risk from both natural  
11 disasters and man-made disasters. In response, Washington state and  
12 its local governments have implemented nationally recognized  
13 all-hazards emergency management and disaster response plans. However,  
14 recent studies have revealed the lack of a secure funding source for  
15 resolving impediments to the ability of state and local programs to  
16 integrate and coordinate comprehensive disaster preparedness. In  
17 addition, local programs suffer disparities in funding and expertise,  
18 leaving troublesome gaps in a well-coordinated statewide all-hazards  
19 emergency management system.

20 Recognizing that all disasters are local disasters, the legislature  
21 therefore intends to strengthen state and local emergency response,  
22 mitigation, preparation, and coordination by establishing a stable  
23 source of funding with the intent that Washington state become the  
24 nationally recognized leader in emergency management. The funding will  
25 be dedicated to the development and coordination of state and local  
26 government emergency management programs by supporting joint training  
27 exercises, citizen and industry coordination with emergency management  
28 efforts, public education, and relationship building among local and  
29 state emergency management officials.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    The emergency management, preparedness, and  
2 assistance account is created in the state treasury.    Moneys in the  
3 account may be spent only after appropriation.    Expenditures from the  
4 account may be used only as provided in section 3 of this act.

5        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    (1)(a)    The department must use twenty  
6 percent of the funds appropriated from the emergency management,  
7 preparedness, and assistance account for the department's  
8 administration of this section, and to:    Fund the department's  
9 assessment required by section 4 of this act; fund state agency  
10 activities, including military department activities, that develop and  
11 coordinate comprehensive emergency management plans; train elected and  
12 appointed state officials on state laws, disaster command and response  
13 structures, and the roles and responsibilities of officials before,  
14 during, and after a disaster; administer periodic joint emergency  
15 management training exercises involving the military department and  
16 other state agencies; and implement state agency projects that will  
17 strengthen emergency response, mitigation, preparation, and  
18 coordination.

19        (b) From the remaining funds, the department shall pay for the  
20 study required in section 5 of this act, and the remainder must be  
21 allocated for grants to regional agencies, local governments, tribal  
22 governments, regional incident management teams, and private  
23 organizations to:    Develop and coordinate comprehensive emergency  
24 management plans; train elected and appointed officials on state laws,  
25 ordinances, disaster command and response structures, and the roles and  
26 responsibilities of officials before, during, and after a disaster;  
27 administer periodic joint emergency management training exercises; and  
28 implement projects that will strengthen emergency response, mitigation,  
29 preparation, and coordination.

30        (2) Projects funded under this section must include, but need not  
31 be limited to, projects that will promote statewide and neighborhood  
32 level public education on disaster preparedness and recovery issues,  
33 situate all weather radios in public buildings, enhance coordination of  
34 public sector and private sector relief efforts, and improve the  
35 training and operations capabilities of agencies assigned lead or  
36 support responsibilities in the state comprehensive emergency  
37 management plan.

1 (3) Grant funding may also be used as seed money to establish a  
2 dedicated, full-time emergency management director in every county that  
3 does not have such a director as of the effective date of this section.

4 (4) The department must establish criteria and procedures for  
5 competitive allocation of these funds by rule. At a minimum, the rules  
6 must:

7 (a) Establish preferential funding for projects and exercises  
8 addressing needs and recommendations identified by the department in  
9 the assessment conducted under section 4 of this act;

10 (b) Specify a formula that establishes a base grant allocation and  
11 weighted factors for funds to be allocated over the base grant amount  
12 for regional agencies, local governments, tribal governments, regional  
13 incident management teams, and private organizations with existing  
14 emergency management and preparedness programs that are located in a  
15 part of the state where the risk of exposure to disasters is deemed by  
16 the department to be particularly acute;

17 (c) Specify match requirements; and

18 (d) Include requirements that, at a minimum, a local emergency  
19 management agency have: A comprehensive emergency management plan or  
20 be a member of a joint local organization for emergency management; and  
21 a local director who works at least forty hours a week in that  
22 capacity, or have designated by ordinance or resolution an emergency  
23 management coordinator who works at least fifteen hours a week in that  
24 capacity.

25 (5) No more than five percent of any award made under subsection  
26 (1)(b) of this section may be used for administrative expenses.

27 (6) The distribution formula provided in this section may be  
28 adjusted proportionally when necessary to meet any matching  
29 requirements imposed as a condition of receiving federal disaster  
30 relief assistance or planning funds.

31 (7) Local governments and other recipients of funds under this  
32 section may not use the funds to supplant existing funding.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Beginning in January 2008 and biennially  
34 thereafter, the department must conduct in conjunction with the  
35 emergency management council a strategic assessment of, and issue a  
36 report on, the ability of state, local, and tribal emergency management

1 organizations to effectively provide for all phases of comprehensive  
2 emergency management. The assessment must:

3 (1) Evaluate state, local, and tribal emergency management  
4 capabilities and needs;

5 (2) Evaluate the ability of state, local, and tribal emergency  
6 management organizations to provide emergency management mitigation,  
7 preparedness, response, and recovery;

8 (3) Evaluate the effectiveness of the emergency management  
9 structure at the state, local, and tribal levels;

10 (4) Provide findings and make recommendations that increase the  
11 ability of state, local, and tribal emergency management organizations  
12 to meet current and future risks; and

13 (5) Detail where and for what purpose funds under section 3(1)(b)  
14 of this act have been distributed.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The joint legislative audit and review  
16 committee must study and review the performance of programs implemented  
17 under this act. The committee must examine at least the following  
18 factors: The number and type of joint exercises conducted under  
19 section 3 of this act; the number of programs receiving grant money and  
20 the status of those programs; the coordination of comprehensive  
21 emergency management plans between state and local jurisdictions; the  
22 number of training programs administered; the number of comprehensive  
23 emergency management or safety plans created using funds distributed  
24 under section 3 of this act; and the number of emergency preparedness  
25 officials created and trained with funds distributed under this act.  
26 The committee must provide a final report on this review by December  
27 2008. Funds from the emergency management, preparedness, and  
28 assistance account may be provided to the committee for the purposes of  
29 conducting the study.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 2 through 4 of this act are each  
31 added to chapter 38.52 RCW."

32 Correct the title.

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